

REMARKS

This Communication is filed in response to the Office Action dated August 4, 2003. Entry and consideration is respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, certain claims have been amended to more specifically define the features of Applicants' invention. New claims 30-38 have been added to claim different combinations of the elements of Applicants' invention with the features of claim 15.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4-13, 15, 16 and 19-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). However, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent claims 1, 15 and 16, and the claims depending therefrom, includes features which are not anticipated by any of the cited references, taken singly as posed by the Examiner. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-6, 10-13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Hand. The Examiner contends that Hand discloses all of the features of Applicants invention as set forth in claims 1 and 15.

However, the Examiner continues to misinterpret Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1 and 15. The Examiner states in response to Applicants' prior arguments that the contact member of Hand has at least one arm which is extendable through an open end of a bore in a male endform for contact with the surface of the male endform. The Examiner continues to ignore the term "inner surface" of the bore of the endform as clearly set forth in claims 1 and 15. The arms extending from the ring of Hand are clearly disposed exteriorly of the sheath of the cable and are moved downwardly during insertion to pierce the outer sheath of the cable.

This clearly is opposite from the Examiner's interpretation of Hand as the arms extending from the ring of Hand can in no way function in the manner taught by Hand if the arms are angled so as to pass through the open end of the cable into the interior of the cable. Further, Hand specifically teaches an electric cable or fiber optic cable which is typically solid, rather than hollow as in the bore of Applicants' fluid connector, so as to prevent any insertion of the arms of the ring through the open end of the cable into contact with an inner surface of the cable.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Hand clearly does not anticipate the features of Applicants' invention.

Claims 1 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson.

It is respectfully submitted that Johnson includes structure which is completely different from Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1 and 7-9 so as to prevent any anticipation of Applicants' invention as set forth in these claims.

In Johnson, the contact member is mounted in a socket and has a plurality of angularly configured arms extending through a bore in the socket. The contact member and arms receive a pin therein to insure contact between the pin, the contact member and surrounding portions of the socket.

However, it is respectfully submitted that this structure is completely different from Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1 and 7-9. If Applicants contact is assumed to be equivalent to the socket and legs of Johnson, Johnson still lacks an endform having a bore extending from an open end thereof into which one end of the arms of the contact member extends into contact with an inner surface of the end form. All contact between the arms of Johnson and the inserted pin is with the external surface of the pin. Thus, Johnson fails to teach means extending from the first portion through an open end of a bore in the endform into contact with an inner surface of the endform as set forth by the Applicants in claims 1, and 7-9. Thus, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1, and 7-9 patentably defines over Johnson.

Claims 16 and 19-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 16 and 19-28 includes features which are not anticipated by Johnson. The Examiner contends that Johnson shows an arm adapted to extend through an open end of a bore in an endform into contact with an inner surface of the endform. As explained above, which reasons are repeated herein, the pin of Johnson appears to be solid. In any event, there simply is no teaching in Johnson of contacting an inner

surface of a bore in the pin, even if such a bore exists, with the arms when the arms extend through one end of the bore into the bore. Any contact between the arms of the socket of Johnson is with the exterior surface of the pin and not an inner surface of the pin as set forth by the Applicant in claim 1.

The Examiner has not established a basis in Johnson to support a contention that the arms of Johnson are adapted to extend through an open end of the bore in the housing.

In any event, Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 16 and 19-18 has been more specifically defined as including means extending from the first portion into contact with the endform inserted into the housing bore through an open end of the bore in the endform and to contact with the inner surface of the endform.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 16 and 19-28 includes features which are not anticipated by Johnson.

Claims 30-38 have been added to depend from claim 15. Claims 30-38 are identical to claims 4-12, but depend from claim 15. Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 30-38 is submitted to patentably define over each of the cited references for the same reasons set forth above.

In a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement submitted currently herewith under the provisions of Rule 37 CFR 1.97(c), two additional references recently brought to Applicants' attention have been cited.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent claims 1, 15 and 16, and the claims depending respectively therefrom, includes features which are not taught or suggested by these additionally cited references. Each of the references provides an electrical contact which bridges the gap between two tube ends coupled in a connector so as to electrically connect conductive portions of the two tubes to each other. All electrical contact, however, is achieved through contact with an end face of one tube and not by an arm extending through an open end of a bore in one tube into contact with an inner surface of the tube as set forth by the Applicants' in the present invention.

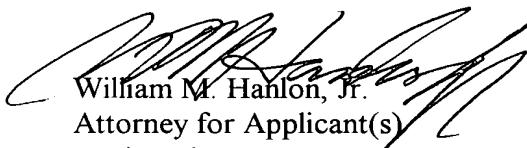
Further, in each of the additionally cited references, the contact member is mounted in one of the tubes and not in a connector housing as in the present invention.

Thus, for these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in the claims patentably defines over the cited references and is not anticipated or rendered obvious thereby.

In conclusion, for the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1, 4-12, 15, 16, 19-28 and 30-38 includes features which are not anticipated by each of the cited references. Thus, it is submitted that such claims are in condition for allowance; and notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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